



## About This Department...

*"Binnacle List" is an old Navy term that refers to a list of people excused from duty because of sickness. We use it here for a collection of brief items about injured Sailors and Marines. The source of this information is the message traffic I read daily.—Ed.*

**Statesville, N.C.**—A Coast Guard PO2 and his wife were passengers in the rear seat of a friend's car that was stopped in traffic. A speeding tractor-trailer rear-ended the car, sending the PO2 to a medical center with a fractured skull. At last report, the victim was in critical but stable condition, and his prognosis was undetermined.

**Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**—"I felt a sharp pain in my lower back, but, because of previous experience with lower-back pain, I didn't think it was serious." That's how a PO3 explained an incident that occurred as he was unloading personal items from a truck. He simply sat down and waited until the pain had subsided.

Two days later, though, while trying to lift a vacuum cleaner, he felt an intense shooting pain in his lower back. A ship-mate called an ambulance, which took the PO3 to a local medical center. An exam and X-rays revealed he had a compression burst fracture of a vertebra, and he would require surgery. Surgeons didn't operate immediately, however, because the victim had a BAC of 0.38.

He lost 21 workdays, including eight in the hospital, and will spend a minimum of 14 months on light or limited duty.

**Saint Julian's, Malta**—An old-fashioned butt kickin'—that's what a seaman got at a local club when a bouncer evicted him. Not satisfied with the kick to his buttocks, the seaman turned around and said something, which caused the bouncer to grab and wrestle him to the ground. Now, the situation really got ugly.

Three more bouncers surrounded the victim and started kicking him in the head and body. He suffered two broken blood vessels to his left eye, a two-inch gash under it, and bruises and swelling to the eye and cheek area, as well as his rib cage.

The victim notified local police about the assault, and they took him to a hospital, where doctors treated and released him. He declined to press charges. Question: What happened to the buddy system?

**Camarillo, Calif.**—In the short time it took the driver of a sedan to look and see if she could change lanes, she rear-ended the car driven by a PO1. The problem started when a pump truck made an illegal lane change in front of the PO1, and he had to slow to 20 mph to avoid a collision. The sedan was traveling faster than 55 mph.

The PO1 spent 96 hours sick in quarters from injuries to his back, shoulders and right knee. His wife was taken to an emergency room, where doctors treated her for minor abrasions and neck pain.